

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claim 34 has been amended. Claims 37-42 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 34-36 are pending and at issue.

Claim 34 has been amended to simplify the structure of Fragment A₁, in which Y is NH, and to specify that the carbonyl carbon of Fragment A₁ is covalently bonded to the nitrogen atom of Fragment A₂, and the carbonyl carbon of Fragment A₂ is covalently bonded to the nitrogen atom of Fragment A₃. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, page 4, line 14 to page 12, line 8; original claims 8 and 10; and Figures 3 and 4b. No new matter has been added.

Examiner Interview

The Examiner is thanked for all courtesies extended to Applicants' attorneys, S. Peter Ludwig and Dianna Goldenson, during the telephone interview held on February 14, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that amending claim 34 to specify that the carbonyl carbon of Fragment A₁ is covalently bonded to the nitrogen atom of Fragment A₂, and that the carbonyl carbon of Fragment A₂ is covalently bonded to the nitrogen atom of Fragment A₃ would most likely place claims 34-36 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claim 34 has been amended as discussed in the interview.

Rejection of Claims 37-42

Claims 37-42 have been rejected by the Examiner as being directed to independent and/or distinct inventions. Claims 37-42 have been canceled. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 34-36 have been rejected as containing subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. The Examiner states that this is a new matter rejection. According to the Examiner, claim 34 is not supported in the specification because the A₂ fragment could be linked to the A₁ and A₃ fragments by amide bonds or, alternatively, by N-N or -C(=O)-C(=O) bonds. The Examiner acknowledges that the present specification teaches that the A₁-A₂-A₃ fragments are linked by amide bonds. Office Action at p. 4.

Claim 34 has been amended to specify that the carbonyl carbon of A₁ is covalently bonded to the nitrogen atom of A₂, and that the carbonyl carbon of A₂ is covalently bonded to the nitrogen atom of A₃. Therefore, claim 34 recites that fragments A₁, A₂, and A₃ are linked by amide bonds, which is supported in the specification at, for example, page 4, line 14 to page 12, line 8; in original claims 8 and 10; and in Figures 3 and 4b. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn, and that claims 34-36 be allowed to pass to issue.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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